Petrol and Natural Gas are not imported.

(c) The higher import of crude oil and petroleum products during 1992-93 is on account of shortfall in indigenous crude production, improved utilisation of refining capacity and increase in the demand.

Discrimination in regard to allotment of Kerosene to Karnataka

315. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State of Karnataka has been discriminated against in regard to allotment of Kerosene, which is a poor man's fuel;

(b) whether the present basis of allotment of Kerosene is proposed to be changed taking into account the area and population as recorded in the current census;

(c) whether Government are aware that the denial of minimum needs of Kerosene to the masses as fuel for cooking and lighting will lead to deforestation and depletion of natural resources; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to ensure increased availability of Kerosene in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) Allocation of kerosene to States|UTs is made on a historical basis, without any discrimination, subject to availability of product and is being maintained at the same level as during 1991-92. On account of constraints of product availability due to limited foreign exchange availability and import capacity, it is not possible to increase the allocation to the States. However, to increase the availability of kerosene in the country, facility of parallel marketing for import distribution and sale of kerosene by private entrepreneurs at market prices have been announced recently.

Expansion Plans for Bharat Petroleum

316. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 116 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th July, 1992 and state the present position of the schemes mentioned therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): The present position of the schemes is as follows :—

(1) Setting up a grassroot refinery in Central India as a joint venture:—

Government have approved on 27.1.93 preparation of a Detailed Feasibility Report for setting up the refinery.

(2) Additional Benzene Capacity at Bombay Refinery:—

BPCL has been asked to update the Feasibility Report.

(3) Manufacture of MTBE :—

The project has been approved and is under implementation.

(4) Laying of Bombay-Manmad Product Pipeline :—

Government have approved on 24-4-92 preparation of a Detailed Feasibility Report for laying the pipeline.

(5) LPG Bottling Plants, new Depots|Installation|Tank wagon Siding. Import facility at Nhawa Sheva; Lube Blending Plant at Asoti/Madras; fore shore Terminal at Kandla etc.:—

These are at various stages of processing by M|s Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited.